

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09  
PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 /096 W

-----010175 021755Z /43

P 021635Z FEB 78  
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2017  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HALIFAX 0060

E O 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS PINT CA  
SUBJECT: THE ATLANTIC FISHERIES: WHERE DO WE GO  
FROM HERE?

1. THE FISHERIES MINISTERS OF THE FIVE EASTERN CANADA PROVINCES WILL MEET WITH FEDERAL FISHERIES MINISTER ROMEO LEBLANC IN CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, ON FEB 3. THE MEETING WILL BE BOTH A FOLLOW-UP TO THE ATLANTIC PREMIERS' MEETING WITH LEBLANC IN OTTAWA ON DEC 21 AND A PREPARATORY MEETING LEADING UP TO THE FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING IN OTTAWA FEB 13-15. THE CHARLOTTETOWN MEETING COMES AT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RELATING TO THE FISHERIES FOR WHICH ANSWERS OR GUIDANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVT. ARE AWAITED.

2. WHAT, FOR EXAMPLE, IS THE FEDERAL GOVT'S POSITION ON THE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST COAST FISHING FLEET? LEBLANC HAS NOT EXPRESSED ANY ENTHUSIASM FOR THE 10-YEAR, DOLS 900 MILLION FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAM ADVOCATED BY NOVA SCOTIA AND NEWFOUNDLAND (HALIFAX 0019), BUT NEITHER HAS HE REJECTED IT  
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OUTRIGHT. IT IS KNOWN THAT HE VIEWS THE PROVINCIAL PLAN AS SOMEWHAT PREMATURE AND GRANDIOSE. NEVERTHELESS, FLEET STATISTICS ISSUED BY THE FEDERAL GOVT ALSO SHOW THE NEED FOR EARLY REPLACEMENT OF A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF EXISTING VESSELS.

3. IT IS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF HOW MANY VESSELS ARE TO

BE REPLACED AND HOW FAST, BUT ALSO HOW THE REPLACEMENTS ARE TO BE FINANCED. WILL EXISTING SHIPBUILDING SUBSIDIES BE INCREASED OR WILL THEY REMAIN THE SAME? WILL ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR FITTING OUT NEW VESSELS WITH FISHING GEAR? THE PROVINCIAL MINISTERS TACTFULLY AVOIDED THESE QUESTIONS IN THEIR MUCH-TOUTED DOLS 900 MILLION PLAN, BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE BOTH THEY AND THE FISHERMEN ARE LOOKING TO OTTAWA FOR FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVT. AND UNTIL THE FEDERAL GOVT MAKES ITS ANSWERS KNOWN TO THESE QUESTIONS, NEW FISHING VESSEL CONSTRUCTION WILL STTAY AT A VERY LOW LEVEL.

4. THEN THERE ARE THE QUESTIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CATCHING OF FISH WITHIN CANADA'S 200-MILE ZONE AND THE PROCESSING OF THOSE FISH. THE PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND IS SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE AT THE PRESENT TIME OVER THE NORDSEE (OF WEST GERMANY) PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE THE OCEAN HARVESTERS PROCESSING PLANT AT HARBOUR GRACE AND TO SUPPLY IT WITH ITS OWN OFFSHORE TRAWLERS (HALIFAX 0019). THE PROVINCIAL GOVT AND THE PROCESSING PLANT WORKERS FAVOR THE NORDSEE PROPOSAL. THE FISHERMEN'S UNION, THE NFLD PRESS, AND OTHERS OPPOSE IT. THE DECISION, OF COURSE, WILL NOT IN THE END COME FROM WITHIN NFLD BUT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVT.  
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5. LEBLANC IS KNOWN TO OPPOSE GENERALLY BOTH FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUND FISHERY AND OWNERSHIP OF LARGE OFFSHORE TRAWLERS BY FISH PROCESSING COMPANIES. SO IT WOULD SEEM THAT, EVEN IF FIRA GIVES ITS BLESSINGS TO THE NORDSEE PROPOSAL, HE WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO GRANT THE REQUISITE LICENCES FOR THE TRAWLERS. BUT WOULD HE THEN, IN THE INTERESTS OF CONSISTENCY AND EVEN-HANDEDNESS, ALSO OPPOSE THE TENTATIVE PLAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE DYING TOWN OF ST. LAWRENCE ON NFLD S BURIN PENINSULA TO BUILD A FISH PROCESSING PLANT WHICH WOULD BE SUPPLIED BY TWO SOPHISTICATED PORTUGUESE DRAGGERS WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF OUTFISHING ANYTHING THEIR SIZE IN NFLD? AS WELL AS GIVING THE PORTUGUESE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENLARGE THEIR SHARE OF THE GROUND-FISHERY, THIS PLAN ALSO CONTEMPLATES

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R 021700Z FEB 78  
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2018  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 HALIFAX 0060

GRANTING LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS TO SEVERAL OF THE  
PORTUGUESE FISHERMEN. WITH THE CLOSURE ON FEB 2 OF  
THE ALCAN FLUORSPAR MINE IN ST. LAWRENCE, THERE IS  
LITERALLY NO OTHER EMPLOYER REMAINING IN THAT ONE-  
INDUSTRY TOWN.

6. IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS  
AWAITING FEDERAL GOVT ANSWERS WILL GET THEIR ANSWERS  
IN CHARLOTTETOWN ON FEB 3. AND ANY THAT MIGHT GET ANSWERED  
ARE HARDLY LIKELY TO PLEASE EVERYONE.

MOORE

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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